

More than 130 homes have been destroyed and more than 700 are reported as damaged, some severely.

Gov. Perdue issued a State of Emergency declaration Saturday night and also waived weight restrictions on heavy trucks to allow relief supplies and crews to begin the recovery process. Additionally, local States of Emergency have been declared in Bertie, Bladen, Cumberland, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson and Wake counties.

At least 26 counties in the central and eastern part of the state have reported significant damage from tornadoes and severe winds.

Preliminary Damage Assessment teams already have begun working in Greene and Cumberland counties. Damage assessment will begin in other counties tomorrow and continue through the week.

Among the major damage incidents are:

- Greene County Middle School was destroyed as were half the buses parked there. Roof was blown off Greene County High School.
- Local Food Lion distribution plant in Dunn severely damaged.
- US 301 south of Dunn is shutdown; also closed between Micro and Kenly.
- In Sanford, the Lowes Home Improvement, Walmart and Static Control were destroyed; significant damage to Big Lots
- In Raleigh, significant damage to Shaw University and the DMV headquarters on New Bern Avenue.

Shelters are still open in several counties, including:

- Cumberland – Westover Recreation Center in Fayetteville
- Greene – National Guard Facility in Snow Hill
- Halifax – William Davie Middle School in Roanoke Rapids
- Johnston – North Johnson Middle School
- Onslow – Jacksonville Commons Middle School
- Pitt – Farmville Central High School
- Wake - Heritage High School in Wake Forest

Citizens are encouraged to avoid damage areas to allow emergency responders and repair crews full access, and to continue monitoring news reports for updates regarding the situation.

Also, motorists returning to work Monday morning in heavily-damaged areas should allow extra time for their commute to allow for detours or road closures.

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